

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABU DH 01189 051753Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

----- 077033

R 040445Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4289

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1189

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MASS, TC

SUBJECT : HELICOPTER SALES TO ABU DHABI

FOR DEP ASST SECY SOBER FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 105042

1. INTERIM GUIDANCE PROVIDED REFTEL IS HELPFUL. PARTICULARLY HAVING GONE OVER GENERAL GROUND OF ARMS SALES IN GULF WITH YOU ON MY RECENT VISIT TO DEPT, AND HAVING JUST RECEIVED BRIEFING ON NEW SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL FROM STEVEN HUFFMAN, I UNDERSTAND PROBLEMS INVOLVED. NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS THAT SHOULD NOT BE LOST SIGHT OF IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE ABU DHABI SALE.

2. ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE UNWARRANTED CONCLUSION, REFTEL SUGGESTS THAT CONSIDERATION OF SALES TO ABU DHABI AND BAHRAIN WILL BE CONSIDERED AS ONE PACKAGE PROBLEM. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO US TO BE UNJUSTIFIED IN LIGHT OF FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT NATURE OF EQUIPMENT EACH COUNTRY IS LOOKING AT, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT FROM BRIEFINGS SIKORSKY REPS HAVE GIVEN US. HELICOPTER ADDF IS CONSIDERING, WE UNDERSTAND, IS BIG JOB DESIGNED FOR HEAVY CARGO AND TROOP TRANSPORT. IT IS NOT DESIGNED TO HAVE GUNDS MOUNTED ON IT. FROM CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE HAD WITH SHAIKH SULTAN BIN ZAYED, DEPUTHVSC-IN-C OF ADDF, IT IS CLEAR HE SEES PURPOSE OF HELICOPTERS IN EXACTLY SAME LIGHT AS C-130'S WHICH USG HAS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ABU DH 01189 051753Z

PREVIOUSLY LICENSED FOR SALE TO ABU DHABI. WE BELIEVE THIS IS

NOT ONLY A LEGITIMATE DISTINCTION TO MAKE BUT ONE THAT WOULD BE
CONSIDERED VALID IN ANY EXPLANATION OF SALE TO CONGRESSIONAL
COMMITTEES. THERE IS FURTHER DISTINCTION TO BE MADE IN THAT, ACCORD-
ING MANAMA 288, BAHRAINIS WANT SALE UNDER FMS AND IN-COUNTRY
US MILITARY PERSONNEL TO SUPERVISE CONTRACTORS PERFORMANCE,
WHEREAS ADDF IS SEEKING PURELY COMMERCIAL DEAL WITH SIKORSKY.

3. SECOND POINT IS THAT WE MUST RELATE OUR ACTION ON THIS REQUEST
TO EXPERIENCE WE RECENTLY HAD HEREMWF ADDF REQUEST FOR TOWS. IN
SENDING US INSTRUCTIONS TO TURN DOWN THIS REQUEST (75 STATE 254114),
DEPARTMENT SAID, "YOU SHOULD MAKE A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO SEPARATE
OUR GENERAL POLICY FROM THE OUTCOME IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE. WE
DO WISH TO BE HELPFUL TO ABU DHABI IN MEETING ITS LEGITIMATE
DEFENSE NEEDS." IN EXPLAINING OUR
DECISION ON TOWS TO RE-
SPONSIBLE UAEG OFFICIALS, WE DID PRECISELY THAT. IT IS DIFFI-
CULT TO SEE HOW ASSURANCES OF OUR "WISH TO BE HELPFUL"
CAN CARRY ANY CREDIBILITY WHATSOEVER IF WE CANNOT PERMIT SALE
OF UNARMED HELICOPTERS TO ADDF. WE NOTE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT
NSDM 186 SPECIFICALLY
CITES HELICOPTERS AS AMONG TYPES OF
EQUIPMENT "THAT WILL MEET THE AREA'S REAL SECURITY NEEDS".
WE ENTIRELY AGREE. THE ADDF HAS NO OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY
AGAINST ANY OTHER STATE AND ACQUISITION OF THESE AIRCRAFT CLEARLY
WILL NOT GIVE IT ONE. IT DOES HOWEVER HAVE LEGITIMATE NEED TO BE
ABLE TO MOVE ITS TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT RAPIDLY TO ANY PLACE WITHIN
UAE AS PART OF ITS INTERNAL SECURITY MISSION. THIS, ALONG WITH
GENERAL CARGO HAULING (ADDF C-130'S HAVE BEEN RECENTLY
OCCUPIED WITH TRANSPORTING 10,000 DATE PALMS FROM TUNISIA TO
AL-AIN), IS CLEARLY ROLE ADDF HAS IN MIND FOR HELICOPTERS.

4. PUT PLAINLY AND SIMPLY, ACTION BY USG TO PREVENT THIS SALE,
IF SHAIKH SULTAN DECIDES HE WANTS THE SIKORSKYS, WILL HURT
US HERE. IT IS CLEAR FROM MY RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM THAT IT
HAS NOT CROSSED HIS MIND THAT USG COULD FIND REASON TO DENY SALE
OF SUCH EQUIPMENT. HE ALONR OF UAE OFFICIALS TO WHOM WE HAVE
PAINSTAKINGLY EXPLAINED REASONS FOR TURN-DOWN ON TOWS HAS REACTED
WITH SOME TOUCHINESS TO OUR DECISION. UNFORTUNATELY AMONG THOSE
OFFICIALS, SHAIKH SULTAN IS FAR AND AWAY THE MOST IMPORTANT. HE
APPEARS MORE AND MORE AT HIS FATHER'S SIDE AND IN OPINION OF MOST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ABU DH 01189 051753Z

OBSERVERS IS BEING GROOMED TO BE FUTURE FULER OF ABU DHABI.
WHILE WE THINK HE HAS ABSORBED SOME OF FACTORS THAT MADE IT
IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO SELL TOWS, I FEEL CERTAIN THAT HE WOULD
TAKE REFUSAL TO ISSUE LICENSE FOR HELICOPTERS AS HOSTILE GESTURE
PURE AND SIMPLE, AND RECEIVE ANY EXPLANATIONS WE PUT FORWARD
AS RATIONALIZATION FOR PLAIN DISREGARD FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH UAE.
IT IS EQUALLY CERTAIN THAT THESE NEGATIVE VIBRATIONS WOULD BE
CONVEYED BY SULTAN TO HIS FATHER, AND I BELIEVE THEY WOULD AFFECT

OTHER AREAS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING,
FOR EXAMPLE, IF TECHNICAL ABISTANCE PROJECTS WHICH WE HAVE WORKED

HARD TO GET STARTED HERE WERE DROPPED OR CANCELLED. IT WOULD ALSO
NOT BE SURPRISING IF MAJOR CONTRACTS ON WHICH US FIRMS ARE
BIDDING HERE COULD UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES BE PUSHED TOWARD
COMPETING NON-US FIRMS.

STERNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HELICOPTERS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAY 1976
Decapton Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ABUDH01189
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760173-0375
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760596/aaaaddwm.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 105042
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : HELICOPTER SALES TO ABU DHABI FOR DEP ASST SECY SOBER FROM AMBASSADOR
TAGS: MASS, EAIR, BA, TC, SIKORSKY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006